

Message Text

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62

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

ISO-00 EA-07 EB-07 L-03 /056 W
----- 107110

R 031639Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8428

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AND BELGIAN INITIATIVE TO FORM
WESTERN EUROPEAN GROUP FOR DISCUSSION
POLITICAL ISSUES AT UNESCO

1. AMBASSADOR OSWIND, AUSTRALIA, APPROACHED PERMREP ABOUT POSSIBILITY TAKING INITIATIVE TO BRING TOGETHER AT UNESCO A GROUPING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTERN ORIENTED MEMBER STATES, SIMILAR TO GENEVA GROUP, WHICH COULD DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES BEYOND SCOPE OF GENEVA GROUP COMPETENCE. OSWIND HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH VAN USSEL, BELGIUM, WHO PROBABLY STARTED THE PROCESS AND WHO HAS LONG WANTED SOME SORT OF MECHANISM FOR CLOSER COORDINATION ON POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

2. OSWIND IS MOVING CAUTIOUSLY AND HAS INDICATED HE IS SEEKING CONCURRENCE CANBERRA. EXACTLY HOW MECHANISM WILL EVOLVE, OR WHETHER IT WILL IN FACT EVOLVE, IS TOO EARLY TO SAY. HOWEVER, CANADIANS AND NORDICS HAVE LONG WANTED SOME VEHICLE FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WHETHER EEC NINE WILL BE RESPONSIVE IS QUESTIONABLE.

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3. PERMREP HAS INDICATED GENERAL APPROVAL OF THE IDEA

OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A GROUP. IT WOULD INDEED BE USE-
FUL TO HAVE SUCH A GROUP AT UNESCO AND COULD LEAD TO
GREATER COORDINATION AMONG LIKE-MINDED WESTERN STATES.
THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR US TO TAKE LEAD, BUT PERMDEL
WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE INITIATIVE AND
BE AS CONSTRUCTIVE AS IS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO
GIVE SUPPORT TO THE AUSTRALIAN AND BELGIAN EFFORT
TO MEET REGULARLY WITH OSWIND AND VAN USSEL, AND TO
BACK-UP THEIR ACTIONS IN WHATEVER WAY WE CAN BE MOST
EFFECTIVE.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS06441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760081-0821
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760399/aaaadjot.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN AND BELGIAN INITIATIVE TO FORM WESTERN EUROPEAN GROUP FOR DISCUSSION
TAGS: OCON, PORC, AS, BE, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006